



Written opponent testimony on

SB 373

Prohibiting the use of public moneys for lobbying

By

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB opposes SB 373 based on our member-affirmed legislative platform, which states, *KASB opposes limitations on the ability of school boards and their employees to advocate on behalf of their districts' interests.*

KASB represents nearly 3,000 locally elected school board members who are engaged in daily work in their communities to support student achievement and educational excellence. It would be difficult for most of those dedicated local elected officials to participate in the complex, fast-moving legislative session to the extent necessary to advocate for their districts' interests in Topeka.

In addition, this bill places limits on the free speech and free association rights of local board members and the districts they serve. Such limits are antithetical to the open exchange of information and ideas that is essential to a well-informed and well-functioning legislative process. Good public policy making requires that those subject to the policies be able to effectively communicate with their representatives in the Legislature. This bill interferes with the ability of locally elected board members to choose how they do this work effectively and efficiently.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

Kansas Association of School Boards

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